THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Under the modernization project 'Re-inventing EPF India', members of the Employees' Provident Fund are being allotted a unique identity number called Social Security Number (SSN), which will facilitate the members to have their Provident Fund accumulations, etc., credited to one account across employment. In order to accelerate enumeration, several steps like awareness camps, employer guides, etc. have been taken. So far 33.48 lakh Social Security Number have been allotted.

Number of unemployed/employed youths

959. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND **EMPLOYMENT** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youths of the country according to 2001-census;

(b) the rise of unemployment during last three years;

(c) the number of persons in employment, other than agriculture sector, as in 1991 and 2001 census; and

(d) the loss of job during these ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) According to 2001 census, there were 315 million unemployed youth in the age group of 15—29 years.

(b) Number of job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, registered with employment exchanges in the country was 40.46 million, 39.35 million and 41.47 million respectively as on 31st December for the year 2004, 2005 and 2006.

(c) Number of persons employed in non-agricultural sector as per 1991 census was 104 million and 151 million as per 2001 census.

(d) Between 1991 and 2001, employment grew by 88.1 million and therefore, there was no loss of jobs during this period.

Dearness allowance of Beedi workers

960. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received several complaints against Beedi Companies that have withheld the dearness allowance of workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that Beedi workers are paid dearness allowance by the Beedi Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per available information, several complaints have not been received against beedi companies for withholding dearness allowance of beedi workers.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.